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ABSTRACT

The key ethical standards for authorship of educational research are summarized, drawing on "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals" developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Adopted by more than 500 scientific and biomedical journals, these standards are effective guidelines for educational publications. All persons listed as authors must have made a substantial intellectual contribution to the study and accept public responsibility for it, and be able to defend the contribution against academic challenge. Participation solely in the acquisition of funding or the collection of data does not merit authorship status. People who made a significant contribution to the work that did not justify authorship may be listed among the acknowledgments. Authors also have an obligation to use journal space wisely and efficiently, and to avoid redundant publication. While it is generally permissible for an author to submit a manuscript that has been presented at a conference, an author should not submit a paper that has been published previously. Because journals usually will not wish to publish separate articles by competing members of a research team, co-workers should consider submitting one manuscript containing multiple interpretations if they exist, and then calling the attention of the editors to the dispute. Conflict of interest for a given manuscript exists when a participant in the peer review and publication process has ties to activities that could influence judgment inappropriately. Financial relationships and their effects are less easily detected than other conflicts of interest, and authors should disclose these conflicts to their editors. An author should cite all publications that have been influential to the work, and should identify the sources of information quoted or offered. Explicit permission is needed for information obtained privately. (Contains 10 references.) (SLD)

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Kristen L. Syrett and Lawrence Rudner

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Authorship Ethics

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Aside from parts of the "Requirements for Authors" statements that appear in various professional journals, very little has been written about ethical standards for authors in the education field. Topics that have not been addressed include criteria for authorship, acknowledgments, redundant publication, competing manuscripts, and conflict of interest. The education community can benefit from the debates, experiences, and standards developed by the biomedical research community.

Presented here is a summary of key ethical standards outlined in the *"Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals,"* developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Adopted by over 500 scientific and biomedical journals, including the *New England Journal of Medicine, Science*, and *Lancet*, these ethical standards are effective guidelines for educational publications.

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All persons listed as authors must have made a substantial intellectual contribution to the overall study and accept public responsibility for it. In other words, the author must give input beyond general supervision or instruction of a research group, have a clear understanding of the methodology and implications of the work, and be able to defend the contribution against academic challenge.

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Acknowledgments

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